

REMARKS:

In the Office Action mailed on September 8, 2004, the Examiner objected to the specification as having the term “dimensions” which should be changed to --diameter--, as having certain elements not appearing in the drawings, and as having the term “the contact element” which should be changed to --the contact pin--, objected to the drawings for not showing every feature of the claimed invention, with specific reference to the threads in the stopper and aperture, objected to claims 1 - 9 under 35 U.S.C. section 112 as being indefinite while specifically questioning how the second inner dimension of the crimpable lip can be larger than the first inner dimension of the hollow chamber and how the crimped inner dimension can have two inner dimensions, rejected claims 1 - 4, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. section 102 (e) as being anticipated by Barabi (US 6,559,665), rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. section 103 as being an obvious combination of Barabi and modifications which would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill, and indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With this amendment the specification and drawings have been modified , claim 5 has been canceled and claim 1 has been modified. Claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 9 remain in this application.

The specification has been changed to a) correct a typographical error of the word “golf” when the word should have been --gold--, b) delete “element portion” and insert in its place --end of the contact pin--, c) delete “screw and tap”, d) delete “dimensions” and insert in its place --diameter--, and e) delete “contact portion” and “contact element” and in their place insert --contact end--.

Figure 1 has been modified to show that the pin is in the prior art. Figures 5 - 10 and 12 have been modified by adding additional element numbers to make the drawings more consistent with the specification and claims.

Claim 5 has been canceled since none of the drawings show that the stopper or aperture have a threaded arrangement.

Claim 1 has been amended by deleting “dimension” and inserting in its place --diameter--,

by indicating that the stopper is designed to be placed into and sealing the aperture, and by indicating that the contact pin body has an outer diameter which is smaller than the uncrimped inner diameter of the crimpable lip so that the pin body can pass through the crimpable lip into the hollow chamber.

The Barabi reference (US 6,559,665) cited by the Examiner has no stopper which is placed in an aperture to seal the aperture. At best Barabi '665 teaches slidably inserting contact ends 51 and 52 into respective apertures. However, neither contact end seals the aperture from environmental impurities entering after plating is completed. A further argument can be made that the enlarged base ends 57, 58 can seal the respective apertures when the pins are in their non-engaged positions. However, none of the base ends are inserted into the aperture as required by the claims. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C sections 102 and 103 have been overcome in view of the amendments.

The Examiner also questioned how the second inner dimension (diameter) of the crimpable lip can be larger than the first inner dimension (diameter) of the hollow chamber and then asked how a lip can have two inner dimensions (diameters). This relationship of the lip with two inner diameters is explained in the specification on page 8. This manufacturing procedure is also disclosed in Swart (US patent 5,641,315) which, in column 6 lines 13 - 15, explains that "[c]omplete outward displacement of the plunger 30 from the barrel is prevented by crimping the open end 16 of the barrel radially inward." This manufacturing procedure requires a body having one lip opening with a diameter which will allow the outer diameter of the pin to pass into the hollow chamber. After the pin is inserted into the hollow chamber, the lip is crimped forming a crimped inner diameter which is smaller than the uncrimped inner diameter and, therefore, can prevent the pin from being displaced out of the hollow chamber. Perhaps the Examiner is confused by the applicant's choice of words when referring to the larger uncrimped inner diameter as being the second diameter, when it actually is the first inner diameter that the pin body will see during the manufacturing procedure when the pin is inserted into the hollow chamber. To help clarify this confusion, language was added to claim 1 which further defines the uncrimped inner diameter of the crimpable lip.

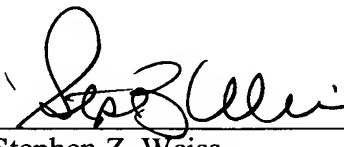
The Applicant believes that the objections and rejections raised by the Examiner have

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been overcome. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the changes to the drawings, the specification, and the claims and to allow all of the claims remaining in the application to grant into a patent.

Respectfully submitted,
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 1 was changed to show that it is in the prior art. Figures 5 - 10 and 12 have been changed with new element numbers to make the drawings consistent with the specification. Attached is a copy of five sheets of drawings which replace the drawings originally filed. Also attached are "Annotated Marked Up Drawings" which show the changes that have been made.

ANNOTATED MARKED UP DRAWINGS

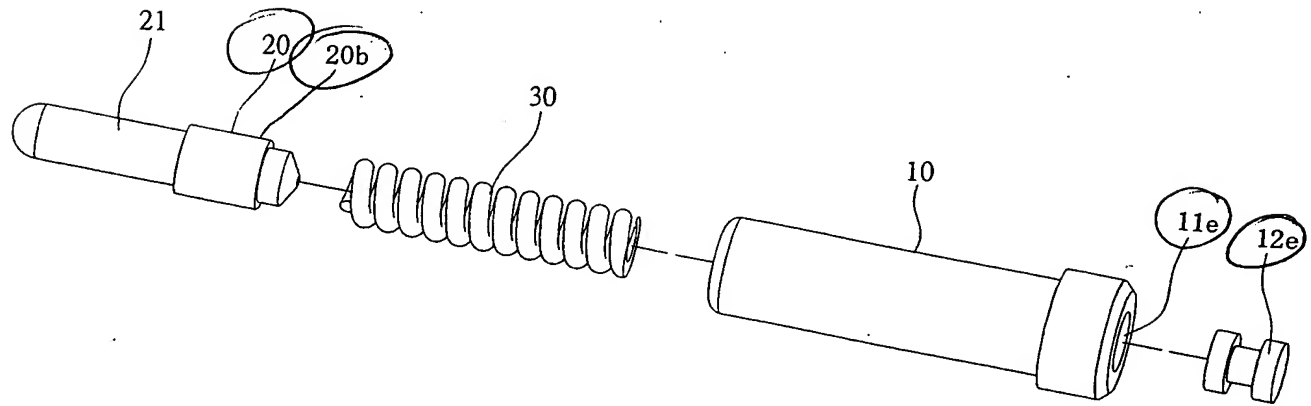


FIG 9

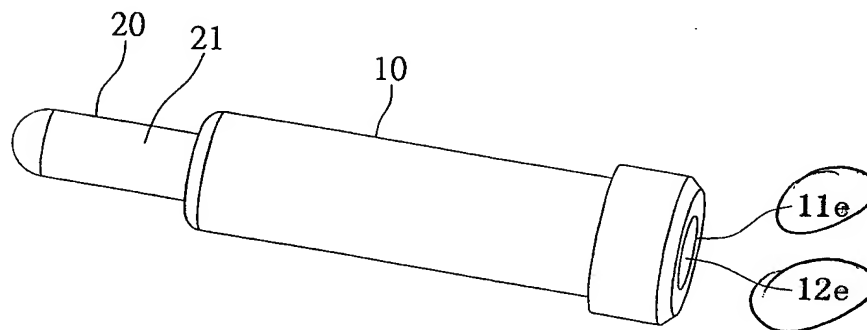


FIG 10

ANNOTATED MARKED UP DRAWINGS

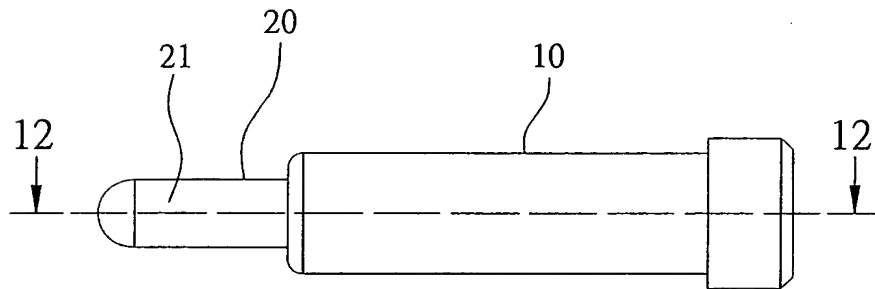


FIG 11

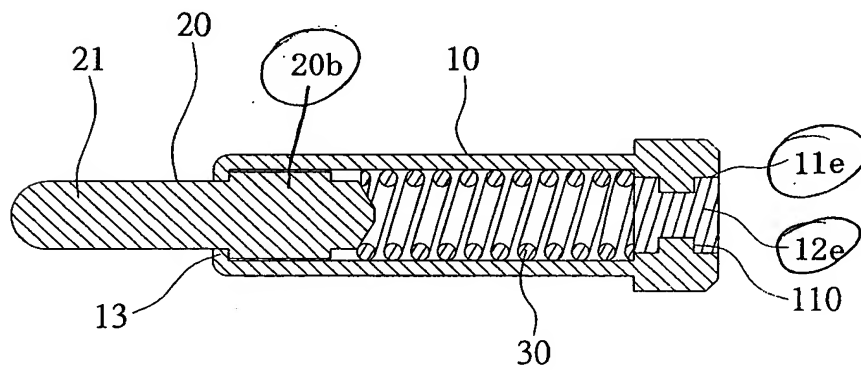


FIG 12